



The Tom Ford Spring 2018 collection is modeled during New York Fashion Week, Wednesday.

**Shrinking violets**

No matter how you dress it up, there's a dearth of household names this season. Proenza Schouler, Rodarte, Altuzarra and Thom Browne have fled to Paris, and instant fashion devotee Tommy Hilfiger to London. Some industry insiders herald a time of change, and a chance for younger labels such as Monse or Sies Marjan to shine. Others point to Europe's bolstered reputation for more avant-garde creativity.

**Bigger is beautiful**

New York leads the way when it comes to more plus-size models treading the runway, the most famous of whom is size 16 Ashley Graham. It comes after dozens of fashion labels in Paris, including Christian Dior and Saint Laurent, pledged on Wednesday to stop using size zero models following scandals about anorexia and mistreatment.

**Celebs**

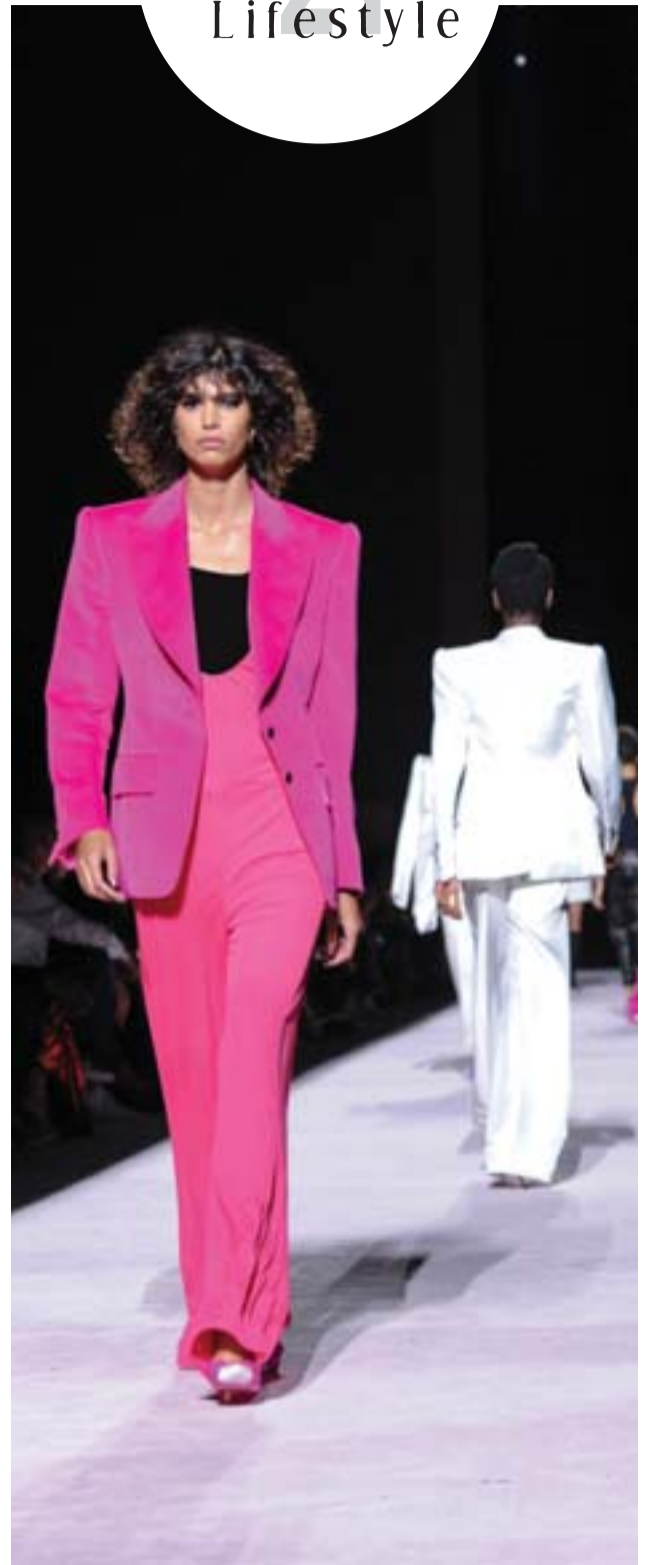
Headline-grabber Rihanna will showcase her Fenty collection with Puma on Sunday. Rap superstar Kanye West is keeping close wraps on his still mysterious sixth installment for urban sportswear brand Yeezy.

**In the sticks**

US fashion royalty Ralph Lauren is inviting a paired down guest list to the garage housing his collection of rare automobiles in Bedford, New York, followed by a formal black-and-white dress code dinner. It will be quite a trek — 40 miles (64 kilometers) north of Manhattan-as the brand prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary next year.

**Trump that**

US designers have long been up in arms over the Trump presidency. Some refuse to dress his wife and politics peppered the runway in February. The Council of Fashion Designers of America is teaming up with the American Civil Liberties Union to campaign against racism after a deadly demonstration attended by neo-Nazis in Virginia last month. "We want to be on the front line, not the sidelines, to boldly fight to protect our precious rights and freedoms, which has taken on a renewed urgency," said CFDA president and CEO Steven Kolb. To that end a special blue lapel ribbon is being distributed. — AFP



Designer Tom Ford greets the audience after his Spring 2018 collection is shown during New York Fashion Week, Wednesday. — AP photos



Rachel Feinstein attends the Tom Ford Spring/Summer 2018 Runway Show.



Rande Gerber, Cindy Crawford and Ansel Elgort attend the Tom Ford Spring/Summer 2018 Runway Show After Party.



Kim Kardashian attends the Tom Ford show.